

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An optical system, comprising:

~~at least one light source, which~~ a light source that emits light ~~substantially of a particular wavelength range~~ in a substantially randomly polarized or unpolarized state;

~~at least one~~ a reflective polarizer coupled to the ~~at least one~~ light source; and
~~at least one~~ an optical element having an interior that is substantially filled with solid material that redirects a portion of light reflected by the reflective polarizer through the ~~at least one~~ light source and back to the ~~at least one~~ reflective polarizer,
wherein there is substantially no optical distance between the ~~at least one~~ light source and the ~~at least one~~ optical element.

2. (Currently amended) The optical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ light source is disposed in the optical element.

3. (Currently amended) The optical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 2, wherein ~~at least one~~ the light source is encased in ~~a~~ the material of the optical element.

4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The optical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ including a quarter wave plate (QWP) disposed between the ~~at least one~~ reflective polarizer and the ~~at least one~~ optical element.

6. (Currently amended) The optical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ reflective polarizer is disposed over a surface of the ~~at least one~~ optical element.

7. (Currently amended) The optical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ optical element is a compound parabolic concentrator ~~(CPC)~~.

8. (Currently amended) The optical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1, further comprising including a wavelength combiner disposed adjacent to the ~~at least one~~ optical element.

9. (Currently amended) The optical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 8, further comprising including an integrating rod that is optically coupled to a liquid crystal display ~~(LCD)~~ system.

10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The optical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 8, wherein the wavelength combiner is chosen from ~~the~~ a group consisting essentially of: a dichroic cube; a plurality of dichroic cubes; and dichroic elements.

12. (Currently amended) The optical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ light source is an array of light emitting diodes.

13. (Currently amended) The optical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ light source is a single LED.

14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A method ~~of recycling light to improve efficiency of an optical system, the method comprising:~~

providing ~~at least one a~~ reflective polarizer and ~~at least one a~~ source of unpolarized or randomly polarized light, where ~~one of the reflective polarizers is coupled to each of the sources of unpolarized or randomly polarized light via an~~ optical element having an interior that is substantially filled with a solid material;

redirecting a portion of light reflected from the reflective polarizer through the light source and back to the reflective polarizer, which transmits light of a particular polarization state and reflects the remaining light to the optical element, wherein there is substantially no optical distance between the reflective polarizer and the optical element.

16. (Currently amended) The method ~~as recited in~~ of claim 15, the method ~~further comprising including~~ polarizing at least a portion of the reflected light to the particular polarization state.

17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The method ~~as recited in~~ of claim 16, ~~the method further comprising polarizing including~~ directing the light of the particular polarization state to a liquid crystal device.

19. (Currently amended) An optical package, comprising ~~at least one a~~ light emitting element, ~~which is disposed in an optical element, which~~ having an interior that is substantially filled with a solid material that redirects light reflected from one end of the optical element back through the light emitting ~~device element~~ and out from the one end.

20. (Currently amended) The optical package ~~as recited in~~ of claim 19, wherein the light-emitting element emits randomly polarized light or unpolarized light ~~of over a substantially finite wavelength range~~.

21. (Currently amended) The optical package ~~as recited in~~ of claim 19, wherein the at ~~least one~~ light-emitting element is chosen from the group consisting essentially of: a single light emitting diode and an array of light emitting diodes.

22. (Currently amended) The optical package ~~as recited in~~ of claim 19, wherein the light- emitting element is encased in the optical element.

23. (Currently amended) The optical package ~~as recited in~~ of claim 19, wherein the optical element is a compound parabolic combiner.

24. (New) An optical system, comprising:

- a light source that emits light in a substantially randomly polarized or unpolarized state;
- a reflective polarizer coupled to the light source; and
- an optical element that redirects a portion of light reflected by the reflective polarizer through the light source and back to the reflective polarizer, and
- a quarter wave plate disposed between the reflective polarizer and the optical element.

25. (New) The optical system of claim 24, wherein the optical element includes an interior that is substantially filled with a solid material, and the reflective polarizer is disposed over a surface of the element.

26. (New) The optical system of claim 24, wherein the optical element is a compound parabolic concentrator.

27. (New) The optical system of claim 24, including a wavelength combiner disposed adjacent to the optical element.

28. (New) The optical system of claim 27, including an integrating rod that is optically coupled to a liquid crystal display system.

29. (New) The optical system of claim 27, wherein the wavelength combiner is chosen from a group consisting essentially of: a dichroic cube, a plurality of dichroic cubes, and dichroic elements.

30. (New) The optical system of claim 24, wherein the light source is an array of light emitting diodes.

31. (New) The optical system of claim 24, wherein the light source is a single LED.